

INL News Release
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INL shooting team places third in national competition

A team of Idaho National Laboratory security officers took third place overall in the U.S. Department of Energy 2009 Security Police Officers Training Competition in Albuquerque. The competition is considered one of the toughest team shooting events in the nation.

The grueling four-day test included team shooting with handguns, rifles and automatic weapons, obstacle courses, and physical endurance tests — all against the clock. For example, teammates Jeremy and Spencer Cook had to retrieve a 40-pound canister, run over to a training tower with it, climb the tower and set the canister on top, descend the tower, and then quickly fire at targets — all while wearing gas masks and full security gear.

"This is a great performance from a world-class security force team," said Dwayne Coburn, who oversees INL Security as director of Facilities & Site Services. "We are showing strong improvement in our competitive security events. Lately, when they come to test our performance here at INL, we have a reputation as the toughest DOE security force in the nation."

INL has moved up in the national ranks from fifth place just two years ago. The INL team score of 913.093 put it just one point away from a tie for second. In the most challenging component, the Super Team Event, the INL squad took second in the nation out of nine teams competing.

"I am so proud of this team," said team captain Jay Blake. "We worked hard on our physical endurance this year, and with the world-class instructors we have at INL, the extra training paid off." Others on the team are Brian Cook, Brad Hammer, Spencer Cook, Jeremy Cook and Tyler Talbot.

"Shooting freehand at the last set of targets was demanding," Jeremy Cook said. "For me, that was the toughest single event — and our physical training really paid off."

INL, one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories, performs work in each of DOE's strategic goal areas: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation is the responsibility of

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